





ABSTRACT

A pedestrian survey of lands lying within the area of a proposed flood control alternative located on Lost Creek near Columbus, Nebraska, was completed in April 1979 under an agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Omaha District) and the University of Nebraska. Three archeological sites were identified; two of these (sites 25PT38 and 25PT39) yielded contemporary 20th century debris, while a third (site 25PT37) appears to represent prehistoric use of the area. All three sites will be partially destroyed by the proposed action. Further investigation of the two recent loci is not recommended; neither site is considered eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Further field evaluation of site 25PT37 (including subsurface tests) is recommended to permit assessment of research potentials and possible National Register eligibility.

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INTRODUCTION

In September 1977, the Division of Archeological Research initiated a preliminary investigation of select areas within the Platte River Basin, Nebraska. The study initially focused on a Phase I, i.e., comprehensive literature and records search, identification and evaluation of cultural resources within three proposed project units located in the vicinity of Columbus, Grand Island, and North Platte, Nebraska. The results of this work were included within a report prepared under Falk's supervision submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Omaha District) in early 1978 (Hartley 1978). The report concluded with the following recommendations:

While Phase I investigations within defined project areas suggest that no known cultural resources will be directly affected by proposed construction alternatives, the possibility that such resources lie within project boundaries cannot be discounted. Though archaeological research in each of the areas considered has been sporadic and (by contemporary standards) incomplete it is significant that clear evidence of both prehistoric and historic groups is plentiful. On the basis of available information -- and given the lack of systematic survey data for all project lands -- a full field evaluation of selected alternatives is strongly recommended (Hartley 1978:52).

This report details work carried out under Phase II of the original agreement and focuses on field investigation of the Lost (reel Flood Control Project alternative located north of Columbus. No

Work on Phase II of the project was initiated. The work followed a formal modification of the contained order agreement which provided for both Phase the investigation was carried out under the contained Carl Falk; Terry Steinacher was responsible for completion of the Carl Falk; Terry Steinacher and Marlene Mercontained to the completion of the carloss the

Project Description

The Lost Creek Flood Control alternative consists of a diversion channel and training levee located north of the main Columbus, Nebraska

business district (figure 1). The planned alternative would intercept floodwaters from Lost Creek and divert them to the Loup Power Canal.

The proposed levee includes 1.5 miles of right-of-way (200 feet in width) extending along the eastern margin of the SE_4 of sec. 10 (T. 17 N., R. 1 W.) and northern margin of the S_2 of sec. 11 (T. 17N., R. 1 W.). The proposed diversion channel consists of approximately 3.7 miles of right-of-way (200 feet in width) beginning in sec. 11 and extending east along the southern margin of the N_2 of sec. 12 (T. 17 N., R. 1 W.) and the southern margin of the N_2 of sec. 7 and 8 (T. 17 N., R. 1 E.). The channel also extends approximately 0.2 miles into the western edge of sec. 9 (T. 17 N., R. 1 E.). A map detailing the above locational mation was provided with the original Scope of Work for the appendix A).

resources located within the above defined Lost resources located within the above defined in the resources located within the above defined in the resources under which this investigation was implemented, work to be accomplished includes: (1) a pedestrian examination of all project lands, (2) preparation of an interim letter report detailing the results of the field investigation, (3) analysis of all information resulting from the field investigation, and (4) preparation of a final project report.

The term cultural resources is defined in a manner consistent with current usage and includes consideration of all archeological, historical, and historic-architectural remains.

Procedures

Given the work to be accomplished, the following steps were initiated.

1. Background Research. Work carried out in conjunction with the initial Platte Basin assessment (Hartley 1978) was reviewed and site records for Platte County, and the Columbus area in particular, were reexamined. Resources of the Nebraska State Historical Society and the University of Nebraska were utilized; survey files in both institutions have been updated and supplemented as a direct result of the study. Finally, the National Register of Historic Places was consulted with

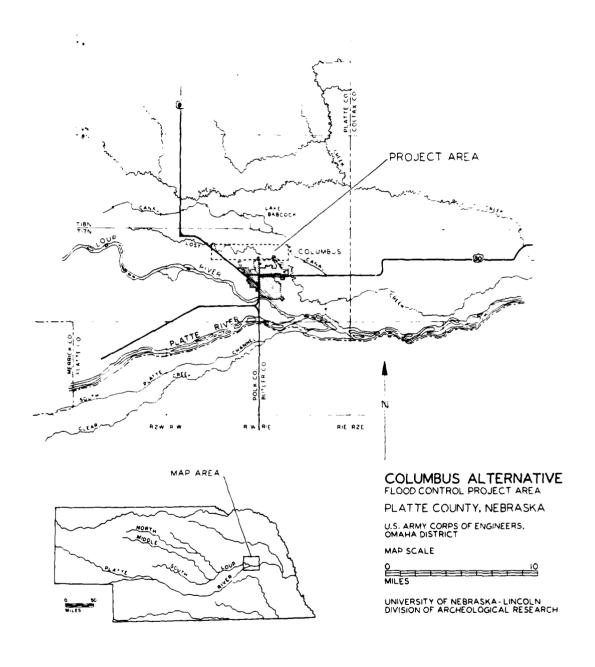


Figure 1. Columbus area in east central Nebraska showing general location of Lost Creek Flood Control Project.

respect to recent additions and/or corrections relevant to the specific study area.

- 2. <u>Field Survey</u>. Following completion of relevant background investigations, an intensive survey of the project area was undertaken. All lands included within the defined study unit were examined.
- 3. Preliminary Report. In accordance with Section IVb of the Scope of Work, a brief letter report outlining results of the field investigation and containing preliminary recommendations relevant to future field evaluation was prepared; this letter report was submitted 8 May 1979 (see appendix A).
- 4. Preparation of Final Report. All data gathered during work phases outlined above were incorporated within the present report. The report was prepared under guidelines provided in the above-cited Scope of Work and oriented toward meeting agency responsibilities under pertinent sections of those Federal mandates concerned with the preservation and conservation of cultural resources.

BACKGROUND

Results of Previous Investigations

Historical background relevant to the Columbus area, together with a summary of previous archeological investigations, was included within a detailed report prepared by Hartley (1978) in conjunction with Phase I of the overall Platte River Basin study. Hartley's report (based on review of work carried out by the Nebraska State Historical Society and the University of Nebraska) adequately documented human occupation of the Columbus area for the past 2,000 years (Hartley 1978:23-25). At least 10 Woodland period occupations were noted, while 19 components represent prehistoric, protohistoric, or historic village occupations. In addition, recent work by the Nebraska State Historical Society has resulted in the identification of at least four possible historic American cabin sites.

Table 1 provides a summary listing of known sites within approximately 20 miles of the project area. As noted by Hartley (1978:27, 50) none of these sites are located within defined project boundaries. Only two loci (sites 25PT32, and 25PT35 -- both historic cabin sites) are located within 5 miles of the proposed flood control project.

National Register Properties

Hartley's review of the National Register of Historic Places resulted in the identification of four entries for Platte County -- the Feye, Wurdeman-Lawson, and Hanna Larson archeological sites and Glur's Taverns. These properties are not located within project boundaries. Consultation with a more recent publication of the National Register (Federal Register, Tuesday, 6 February 1979; Vol. 44, No. 26, p. 7523) reveals no additions or deletions from this listing.

Summary of Known Cultural Resources

Background research carried out by Hartley (1978), as well as that accomplished in preparation for the field investigations reported herein, failed to locate evidence of known prehistoric or historic sites within the defined Lost Creek Flood Control Project area. In addition, consultation with the most recent full publication of the National Register of Historic Places indicates that no register properties are located within project boundaries.

Summary of previous archeological investigations in the vicinity of the proposed Columbus, Nebraska/Lost Creek Flood Control Project; Platte County, Nebraska. Table 1.

Site Number (Name)	Description	Ey	Extent of Investigation ¹ and Published References	Miles From Project Area
A. Butler County:				
25BU1 (Linwood)	Earth lodge village; 60 acres or more in two areas on right bank of Skull Creek. Historic Grand Pawnee	1906	Survey (NSHS) Blackman 1907:329-330 Excavation (UNAS Strong 1935:56 Wedel 1936:29-31 Excavation (NSHS)	•
		,	Champe (1946:78-82 Grange 1968:19 Salvage (NSHS) Carlson 1973:57-80	
25BU2 (Bellwood)	Earth lodge village; <u>ca</u> . 100 acres on right bank of Platte River. Protohistoric and Historic Pawnee	1936	Excavation (NSHS) Champe 1946:119 Grange 1968:19, 20	•
29BU3 (McKnight)	Village or campsite; 3-4 acres on terrace and ridge north of unnamed creek. Possible Plains Village and Woodland components	1936	Surface collection	1

¹ Institutions responsible for investigations are indicated: NSHS = Nebraska State Historical Society; UNAS = University of Nebraska Archeological Survey; UNLA = University of Nebraska Laboratory of Anthropology. References are cited in report bibliography.

Summary of previous archeological investigations in the vicinity of the proposed Columbus, Nebraska/Lost Creek Flood Control Project; Platte County, Nebraska (continued). Table 1.

Site Number (Name)	Description	a E	Extent of Investigation ¹ and Published References	Miles From Project Area
25BU4 (Barcal or Skull Creek)	Earth lodge village; on west bank of Skull Creek. Protohistoric Pawnee	1906 1936 1967	Survey (NSHS) Blackman 1907:330 Excavation (NSHS) Champe 1949:78 Grange 1968:27 Surface Collection (NSHS)	•
25BU7 (Linwood)	Possible earth lodge village; on right bank of Skull Creek. Plains Village (Upper Republican)	1939	Survey (Champe and Kivett)	•
B. Colfax County:				
25CX1 (Schuyler-Gray)	Earth lodge village; on ridge divide south above Shell Creek; <u>ca</u> . 40 acres. Protohistoric Pawnee	1904 1905 1931	Survey (NSHS) Blackman 1905:211-212 Survey (NSHS) Blackman 1906:398-399 Excavation (UNAS) Strong 1935:63 Wedel 1936:39 Dunlevy 1936:147-247 Surface Collection (NSHS) Grange 1968:29	
25CX2 (Wolfe)	Earth lodge village; <u>ca</u> . 20 acres along divide south above Shell Creek. Protohistoric Pawnee	1931	Excavation (UNAS) Strong 1935:67 Dunlevy 1936:147-247 Surface Collection (NSHS) Grange 1968:29	•

Summary of previous archeological investigations in the vicinity of the proposed Columbus, Nebraska/Lost Creek Flood Control Project; Platte County, Nebraska (continued). Table 1.

Site Number (Name)	Description	9 E	Extent of Investigation ¹ Name of Investigation Prances Pranc	Miles From Project Area
25CX3 (Fuller Hill)	Unknown Protohistoric Pawnee	1931	Surface Collection (UNAS) Grange 1968:29	•
C. Platte County:				
25PT1 (Hanna Larson or Looking Glass)	Earth lodge village; 75 to 80 acres on west bank and bluffs of Looking Glass Creek. Protohistoric Pawnee listed in National Register	1901	Survey (NSHS) Blackman 1903:297 Excavation (NSHS) Grange 1968:30	
25PT2 (Bakenhaus)	Rectangular earth lodge on terrace, buried deposit in cutbank and nearby burials, along east bank of Loseke Creek. Plains Village (Upper Republican) and Woodland	1936	Excavation (NSHS) Hill and Kivett 1940:211-215 Excavation (NSHS)	•
25PT3 (Bakenhaus- Wurdeman)	Earth lodge village, rectangular lodges on terrace north of Loseke (Elk) Creek. Plains Village (Upper Republican) and Woodland	1936 1941	Excavation (NSHS) Excavation (NSHS)	

Summary of previous archeological investigations in the vicinity of the proposed Columbus, Nebraska/Lost Creek Flood Control Project; Platte County, Nebraska (continued). Table 1.

Site Number (Name)	Description	E)	Extent of Investigation ¹ and Published References	Miles From Project Area
25PT4 (Bakenhaus Ossuary)	Earth lodge village; 2-5 acres south side of Loseke (Elk) Creek. Plains Village (Upper Republican) and Woodland	1936	1936 Excavation (NSHS)	•
25PT5 (Barjenbruck)	Possible village on Loseke Creek. Woodland	1936 1941	Tests (NSHS) Excavation (NSHS)	•
25PT6	Earth lodge village; 15-18 acres on ridge above Cherry Creek. Protohistoric Pawnee	1941	1941 Excavation (NSHS)	•
25PT <i>7</i>	Possible village <u>ca</u> . 8-10 acres on terrace south of Loseke (Elk) Creek. Plains Village (Upper Republican)	1941	Excavation (NSHS)	•
25PT8	Cache pit near highway east of Looking Glass Creek.	1930	Surface Collection (UNAS)	8
25PT9 (Feye)	Village; <u>ca</u> . 0.1 of an acre on terrace along south bank of Loseke (Elk) Creek. Woodland	1941	Excavation (NSHS) Kivett 1952:44-47	•

Summary of previous archeological investigations in the vicinity of the proposed Columbus, Nebraska/Lost Creek Flood Control Project; Platte County, Nebraska (continued). Table 1.

Site Number (Name)	Description	ज ह	Extent of Investigation ¹ and Published References	Miles From Project Area
25PT10 (Bakenhaus Terrace)	Terrace surface above site 25PT2 (cutbank), east bank of Loseke Creek.	1936 1941	Excavation (NSHS) Excavation (NSHS)	•
25PT11 (Bakenhaus Hilltop)	Occupational level and possible burial on high hill east of Loseke Creek.	1941	Excavation (NSHS)	•
25PT12 (Wurdeman- Lawson)	Village; <u>ca</u> . 0.2 of an acre on terrace along south bank of Loseke (Elk) Creek. Woodland	1941	Excavation (NSHS) Kivett 1952:47-58	•
25PT13 (Monroe or Hill-Rupp)	Earth lodge village; <u>ca</u> . 20-25 acres on ridge and divide slope west above Cherry Creek.	1941	Excavation (NSHS) Grange 1968:31	•
25PT14 (South Bakenhaus)	Possible village and burial on hilltop west of Loseke Creek. Woodland and Plains Village (Upper Republican)	1941	Excavation (NSHS)	•
25PT17 (Foley)	Unknown Protohistoric Pawnee		Local Collection Grange 1968:31	•

Table !

Site 'c. (Nar.	Description	ЭВ	Extent of Investigation ¹ and Published References	Miles From Project Area
25PT18 (Lightner	'Inknown Protohistoric Pawnee		Grange 1968:31	
25PT31	urial	1962	Excavation (NSHS) Garrett 1964:94-95	
25PT32	toric cabin. .ed on 1857 plat map	1972	Recorded (NSHS)	•
25PT33	oric cabin. On 1861 plat map	1972	Recorded (NSHS)	•
25PT34	r cabin. n 1861 plat map	1972	Recorded (NSHS)	•
25PT35	n cabin. Mer n 1860 plat map	1972	Recorded (NSHS)	•
25PT36	to valley edge east above the creek.	1976	Survey (NSHS) Carlson 1976	

[/]wstigations are indicated: NSHS = Nebraska State Historical raska Archeological Survey; UNLA = University of Nebraska rnces are cited in report bibliography. 1 Institutions responsible '
Society; UNAS = Universit,
Laboratory of Anthropology

ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY INVESTIGATION: 1979

An intensive field investigation of defined project lands was initiated on 24 April 1979 under the immediate direction of Terry Steinacher; he was assisted by Carole Angus, Darcy Morey, and Marlene Meier. (All members of the field party have extensive field experience ranging from 3 to 10 years each.) Field records, photographs, and related materials were organized by Terry Steinacher and Morlene Meier and are filed with the Department of Anthropology, University of Nebraska (see appendix B).

Field Procedures

Prior to the survey, a list of land teen individual owners and tenants were the contact to the survey investigation which teen individual to contact to the survey investigation which the survey in t

More, comprised one team, Terry Steinacher and Marlene Meier the other. Each team utilized a zigzag search pattern within each assigned survey tract. Spacing between team members varied with terrain and ground cover and was consistent with maximum visibility. All exposed surface areas, including erosion faces, rodent burrows, and manmade exposures, were inspected. All cultural materials found during the course of the survey were noted on the appropriate U.S.G.S. quadrangle sheet; each area was subsequently revisited to permit further field evaluation. In one case, more intensive surface investigation was deemed necessary; a system of closely spaced traverses (approximately 10 feet apart) was carried out until all cultural materials were located and pinned. Each specimen location was mapped (transit/stadia) and field identification of the materials was completed. All materials were left in place.

Ground cover varied greatly within the survey area. Most tracts were cultivated with varying cover, i.e., alfalfa, winter wheat, corn stubble, and some freshly plowed. Pasture, including some low-lying swampy ground, was encountered near the channel of Lost Creek. A number of weed patches were also noted throughout the survey area. Table 2 provides a summary of ground conditions along the surveyed right-of-way.

A total of 30 man-hours were required to complete all phases of the field investigation.

Table 2. Estimated visibility during Activities Flood Control Project

....st Creek

		
	Lover	Estimated Percent Visibility
Le mile	alfalfa	10~20
Sec. 10, SEL; 3/8 mile	corn stubble	25-30
Sec. 11, N½, NW¼; 3/8 mile	winter wheat	35
Sec. 11, N ¹ ₂ ; 1/2 mile	pasture	10-15
Sec. 11, N ¹ ₂ ; 1/8 mile	plowed	70
Sec. 11, S ¹ ₂ ; 3/8 mile	corn stubble	25-30
Sec. 11, S½; 5/8 mile	pasture/weeds	10-20
Sec. 12; 1/8 mile	pasture	10
Sec. 12; 7/8 mile	swampy/grass	00-10
Sec. 7; 1/2 mile	pasture	10-20
Sec. 7; 1/2 mile	corn stubble	50-70
Sec. 8; 1/4 mile	corn stubble	50
Sec. 8; 1/8 mile	winter wheat	50-60
Sec. 8, N ¹ ₂ ; 1/4 mile	corn stubble	80
Sec. 8, N½; 3/8 mile	alfalfa	20
Sec. 8, S½; 3/8 mile	pasture	10-30
Sec. 8, S½; 1/4 mile	plowed	90
Sec. 9; 1/8 mile	grass	10-20

 $^{^{1}\}text{Proceeding from southwest end of project area, north and then east;}$ N^{1}_{2} and S^{1}_{2} refers to adjoining tracts either side of a boundary line or ditch.

Results

Three archeological sites were located during the field investigation; two of these sites yielded contemporary 20th century debris, while a third appears to represent prehistoric use of the area. Each of the loci is discussed below. More detailed locational information may be found in appendix B.

SITE 25PT37

Site 25PT37 is located on the foot contour and adjacent to what is believed to be a former channel of Lost Creek. The ground in this area rises slightly and consists of a loose, sandy soil underlain by sand and gravel. The present channel of Lost Creek is approximately one-half mile south of the site. Cultural materials were found exposed in parts of two separate cultivated fields adjoined by pasture land; no materials were found in the pasture. The absence of cultural material within the pastures may relate directly to poor visibility. The depth of the deposit is unknown. No surface features were noted.

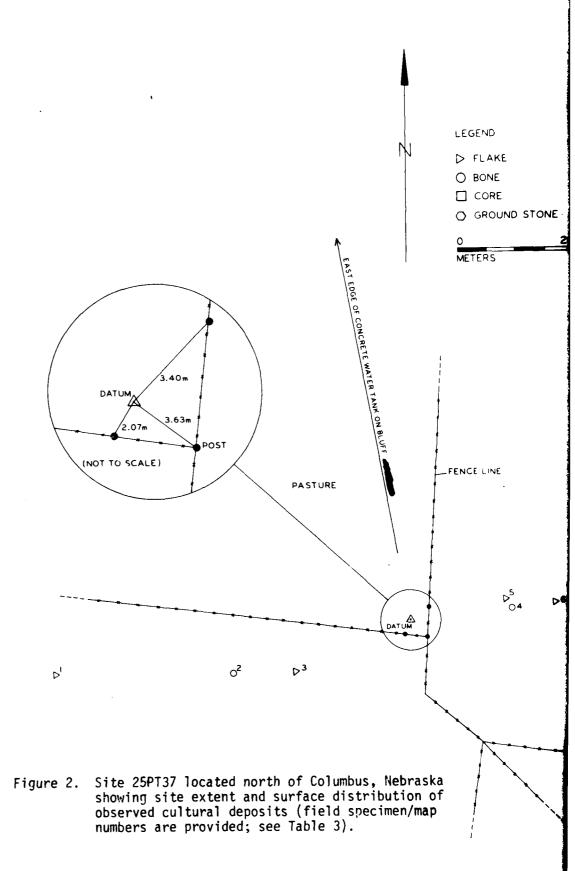
Observed cultural debris covered an area of approximately 1½ acres and consisted of lithic and bone specimens (figure 2). The majority of the lithic material consists of fine-grained chert flakes; the color varies from dark-gray to reddish-brown. A single utilized flake and two core tools are included in this assemblage. A single grinding stone fragment was also noted. The remaining material consists of small pieces of bone. These materials are inventoried in Table 3. No clearly diagnostic materials were located.

Site 25PT38

Site 25PT38 is represented by a surface scatter of recent period debris. The site is located on the forms a low mound next to an old channel which runs into Lost Creek.

Foundations or other subsurface remains were not observed. Brick fragments, nails, ceramics, and glass were noted on the surface. Nails included one square machine-cut and several wire-cut types. Ceramics included recent types of undecorated and stamp decorated dinnerware. In addition, yellow salt-glazed, smooth cream-white, and smooth brownglazed storware were present. Glass remains consisted of an undiagnostic bottle and window fragments.

A portion of the site area is cultivated while another portion is in pasture. The U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute quadrangle (Columbus, Nebraska; 1958) illustrates a farmhouse and a single outbuilding at this location. These former structures may relate to this surface material. Approximately 15 meters north of the surface scatter is a group of recently constructed homes; these clearly postdate the observed material.



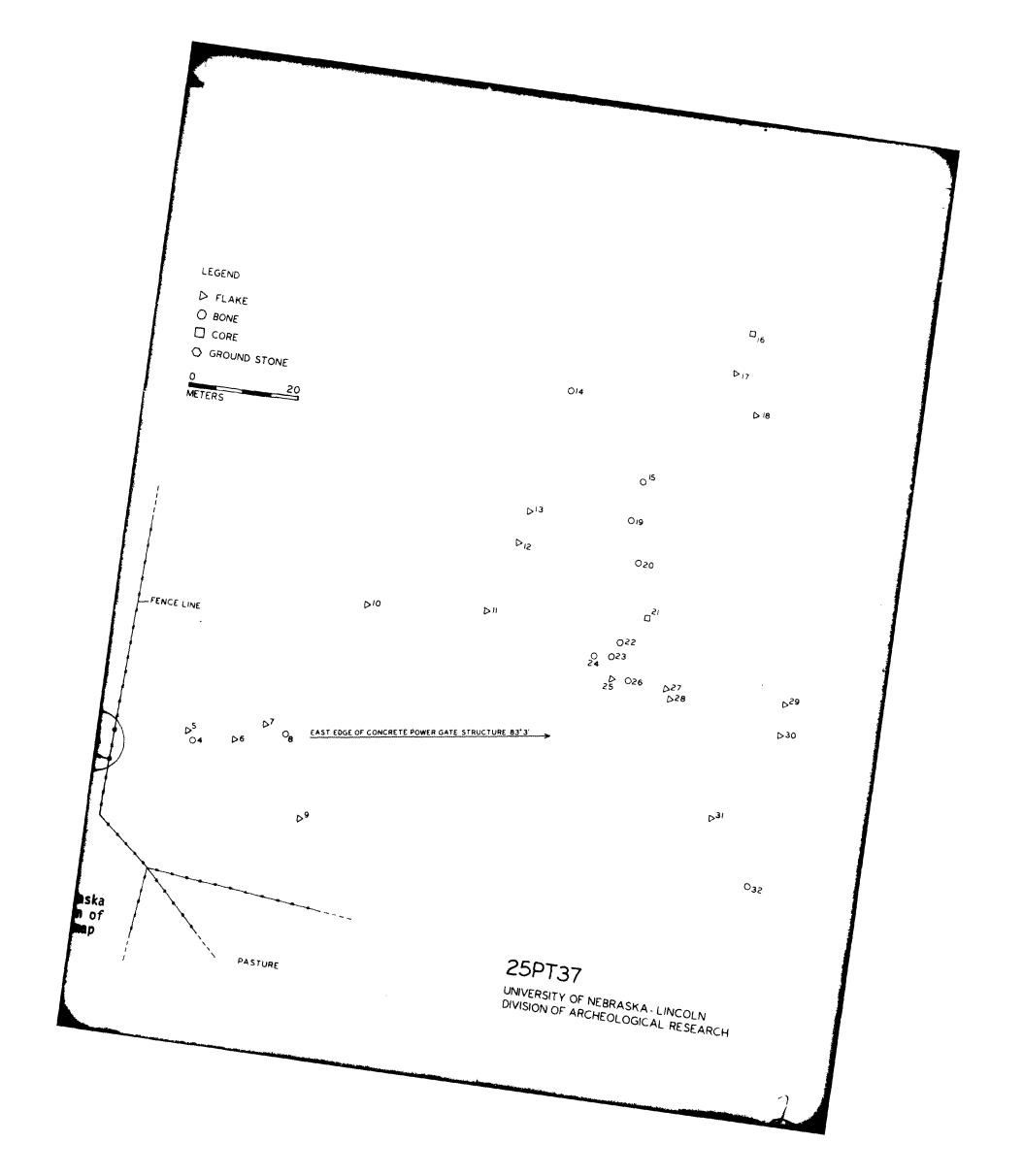


Table 3. Inventory of mapped materials, site 25PT37, Platte County, Nebraska.

Map Reference	Item	Description		
1	flake	light brown (flint), fine grain		
2	bone	rib fragment, Bovidae (?)		
2 3 4 5	flake	light brown (flint), fine grain		
4	bone	indeterminant fragment		
5	flake	light brown (flint), fine grain		
6	flake	gray, medium grain		
7	flake	dark gray with white cortex (chalcedony), fine grain		
8	bone	indeterminant fragment		
9	flake	light brown with white mottling, fine grain		
10	flake	light gray with white mottling, fine grain		
11	flake	gray with white mottling, fine grain		
12	flake	fragment; reddish-brown (jasper), fine grain		
13	flake	fossiliferous; dark gray, medium grain		
14	bone	indeterminant fragment		
15	bone	indeterminant fragment		
16	core	pebble core (quartz)		
17	flake	dark gray with cortex, fine grain		
18	flake	light gray with dark bands, fine grain		
19	bone	indeterminant fragment		
20	bone	indeterminant fragment		
21	biface	bifacially flaked pebble		
22	grinding stone	fragment, granitic (?)		
23	bone	indeterminant fragment		
24	bone	indeterminant fragments (2)		
25	flake	yellow porous material, coarse grain		
26	bone	molar fragment, Bovidae		
27	flake	utilized, red (jasper), medium grain		
2 8	flake	red (quartzite), coarse grain		
29	flake	light brown with white mottling, fine grain		
30	flake	fossiliferous (Nehawka); gray, fine grain		
31	flake	light gray, fine grain		
32	bone	4th carpal, Bovidae		

SITE 25PT39

Site 25PT39 is a light, dispersed scatter of recent period material found to either side (and in the spoil bank) of a drainage ditch. The materials are located on about the 1440-foot contour approximately one-half mile north of the present channel of Lost Creek. No clearly discernable concentration was noted; ground cover was heavy. The material extends along the ditch for approximately 30 meters. No structural features were noted.

Observed cultural materials consist of a few brick fragments, glass, ceramics, and metal. Ceramics included a few pieces of undecorated Ironstone and cream-white glazed stoneware. Bottle glass and decorative pressed glass were present as well as a glass "Royal Crystal 25A-125V" fuse plug.

Based on available evidence, this location appears to represent a former trash dump and/or the location of a former farmyard. The site area is presently cultivated.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Background research carried out in preparation for this and possible alternative sites (Hartley 1978) provided adquate documentation of human occupation and use of the general Columbus area for the past 2,000 years. None of the past research efforts, however, focused directly on the project area. In addition, systematic survey investigations were lacking in the general Columbus area. Hence, based on a review of available evidence, the possibility for encountering cultural resources within the narrow confines of the proposed project boundaries could not be discounted. The results of the survey support this earlier suggestion.

Though culturally diagnostic remains are lacking, site 25PT37 represents the first known prehistoric locus along Lost Creek. In addition, few sites are presently known to exist on the low-lying terrain below the Loup River Bluffs to the north.

Sites 25PT38 and 25PT39 represent historic period sites of relatively recent age. Observed materials suggest primary occupation or use of these loci during the past 50 years -- though the initial occupations may have been somewhat earlier within the present century. Site 25PT38 almost certainly represents the remains of a former farmyard, while site 25PT39 may be a former farmyard or trash accumulation. Structural remains (surface or subsurface) were not observed at either location.

Evaluation of Probable Impact

Based on available project design information and our field observations, the proposed project will have a direct impact on each of the three sites. This impact will result (minimally) in partial destruction of the identified resources. It should be noted that this impact evaluation is relevant only to those areas included within the study unit; project activities (road construction and excavation of borrow areas) outside the survey unit have not been considered.

National Register Eligibility

On the basis of field observations, sites 25PT38 and 25PT39 do not meet criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. With respect to site 25PT37, sufficient information is not available to permit an assessment of research potentials or to indicate the possible significance of this site.

Recommendations

No further survey investigations will be required within the proposed project area. Alteration of project design and/or inclusion of construction areas outside the defined area will generate the need for additional field investigations. Recommendations with respect to identified sites are listed below.

Site 25PT37: Initial survey investigations were unable to provide sufficient information to fully evaluate this site. Further field evaluation will be necessary to determine the nature and extent of buried deposits, site age, cultural affiliation, research potential and eligibility for nomination to the National Register. Minimally, this test investigation should include further systematic surface observations and the excavation of a number of 1-meter square test units.

Sites 25PT38 and 25PT39: Available information suggests that neither of these sites meet National Register critera. At the present time, no research problems are anticipated which would justify further investigation of these locations. No further action is recommended.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

Archeological survey investigations within the boundaries of a proposed flood control project located north of Columbus, Nebraska were carried out in April 1979 under a Purchase Order Agreement between the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District. The primary objectives of the study were the identification and evaluation of cultural resources within the defined project area and an assessment of probable impacts to identified resources which might result from the construction of proposed flood control measures. The results of this work are summarized below.

- 1. Review of previous investigations within the project unit failed to identify any known cultural resources (Hartley 1978:50; this report).
- 2. Information gathered was sufficient to document human use of the general Columbus area for the past 2,000 years and suggested the possibility that cultural resources were likely to be found within project boundaries.
- 3. An intensive field investigation of all project lands resulted in the identification of three archeological sites representing both recent (sites 25PT38 and 25PT39) and prehistoric (site 25PT37) use of the project area.
- 4. Based on available project information, all three sites will be partially destroyed by the planned levee and canal construction.
- 5. Field evaluation of two recent loci suggests that neither loci meets criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Also, no present or future research activities are anticipated which would justify further investigation. No further evaluation of these sites is recommended.
- 6. Information available for site 25PT37 is insufficient to evaluate the resource with respect to National Register criteria and, consequently, subsurface test investigation of this site is recommended.

7. Further survey investigations are not recommended within the presently defined project boundaries. It is recognized that there is a possibility that construction or related activities may uncover unknown and previously undisturbed deposits. Should levee or canal construction reveal such deposits, all construction should be halted to permit inspection of the area by a professional archeologist.

prefice.

Blackman.

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APPENDIX A

Pertinent Correspondence and Response to Review Comments

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SCOPE OF WORK

I. Introduction.

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, is investigating a flood control alternative along Lost Creek north of Columbus, Nebraska. This alternative consists of a diversion channel and training levee which would intercept and divert flood flows from Lost Creek to the Loup Power Canal. This alternative includes an area approximately 25,000 feet long, 200 feet wide (see Inclosures Nos. 1 and 2).

II. Work to be Accomplished.

The work to be accomplished shall include (a) a pedestrian survey, (b) a data analysis, (c) production of a detailed report of lands indicated in Inclosure No. 1.

- a. <u>Pedestrian Survey</u>. The pedestrian survey of the impact area shall include (1) a pedestrian search of the hereinbefore specified area; (2) the determination of approximate boundaries for all cultural resources found; and (3) a preliminary evaluation of significance for all cultural resources.
- b. Analysis of Data. Analysis shall consider all data collected. All artifacts shall be carefully washed, catalogued, and stored in containers clearly marked "Property of the U. S. Government, Corps of Engineers, Omaha District" at a place as specified by the Omaha District, Corps of Engineers.
- Detailed Survey Report. The Contractor shall prepare a Phase II report detailing the work done; the study rationale; the study results; recommendations for additional work, if necessary; and appropriate mitigative measures, if required. The report shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following sections: (1) abstract, (2) introduction, (3) regional location, (4) methodology, (5) project results, (6) mitigation recommended, (7) a concise definitive summary with references, and (8) appendices as necessary. The abstract shall be a synopsis of the report stating the conclusions and recommendations. The introduction shall include, but not necessarily be limited to, a statement of purpose, delineation of the study boundary, and a general statement of the nature of the study. The regional setting of the project area should include a discussion of general environmental factors which may have affected the site location. The methodology description shall be of sufficient detail to describe the artifact retrieval procedures; the data collected; recording classification, and analysis procedures; and chronological determination techniques. The methodology shall also include maps of site locations and any anomaly discussed in the report. The report shall contain a brief summary and evaluation of previous cultural resources studies in the area, including dates, extent and adequacy of past work.

One appendix shall consist of a copy of the field records. A second appendix shall be an inventory and description of all artifacts collected. Information shall be presented in textual, tabular, and graphic forms, whichever are more appropriate, effective, and advantageous to communicate necessary information. The Contractor shall give every consideration to the use of nontextual forms of presentation, particularly profile (cross-section) drawings in combination with maps, to maximize the quantity and quality of information per page. All references cited and/or utilized shall be listed in Standard American Anthropological Association format. Contacts with other individuals shall also be cited.

III. Character and Extent of Contractor's Qualifications

- a. The Contractor shall utilize interdisciplinary skills and knowledge as necessary to fulfill the requirements of this contract. In no case shall the personnel be less qualified than the professional qualifications designated in Appendix C of 36CFR Part 66, Recovery of Scientific, Prehistoric, Historic and Archeological Data: Methods, Standards, and Reporting Requirements, published in the Federal Register, Vol. 42, No. 19, Friday 28 January 1977, or be cleared for the project by the State Historic Preservation Officer.
- b. In the event of controversy or court challenge of the report, the principle investigator shall be placed under contract by the Government to testify on behalf of the Government in support of report findings.

IV. Submittal Specifications

- a. The Contractor shall submit three copies of the completed report in draft form, within 150 calendar days after receipt of Notice to Proceed. The Government shall have a maximum of 60 calendar days to review the draft report. The Contractor shall have 60 calendar days to include the Government's review comments in the final report, and submit the final original report, with all negatives, photographs, maps, charts, tables, and standard drawings to the Government. The final report original shall be single spaced, and "camera ready."
- b. Neither the Contractor nor the Contractor's representatives shall release any sketch, photograph, report, or other material of any nature obtained or prepared under this Purchase Order Agreement without specific written approval of the Contracting Officer.

V. Rights of Entry

- a. All rights of entry are the responsibility of the Contractor.
- b. The Contractor shall be responsible for any damages incurred to property as a result of the survey.

VI. Method of Payment

Payment for services rendered will be made upon receipt by the Government of the complete report in draft form for 75% of the contract price. The remaining 25% will be paid upon final acceptance by the Government.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY OMAHA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 6014 U.S. POST OFFICE AND COURT HOUSE OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

MROSD-P

16 April 1979

NOTICE TO PROCEED

The University of Nebraska - Lincoln Attn: Carl Falk, Director Div. of Archeological Research Lincoln, NE 68588

Gentlemen:

You are directed to proceed with the work covered by Contract No. DACW45-77-M-3145, Phase II of the Columbus, Nebraska, Lost Creek, Cultural Resources Survey.

Please complete the acknowledgement at the bottom of this page and return two (2) copies.

Sincerely yours,

Do L. FLOWERS

Chief, Procurement Branch Procurement & Supply Division

Contracting Officer

This Notice to Proceed was received Ar

April 18, 1979

Date

Title___Direct

Director, Division of

Archeological Research



The University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Department of Anthropology Division of Archeological Research Lincoln, Nebraska 68588

May 8, 1979

Ms. Becky Boyd U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Omaha District 7007 U.S. Post Office and Courthouse Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Dear Ms. Boyd:

This preliminary letter report is to inform you we have completed our field investigation of all land included within the flood control alternative located along Lost Creek north of Columbus, Nebraska. This work was carried out by a field team of four individuals on April 24, 1979. The purpose of this correspondence is to advise you of the results of this investigation pending completion of the final detailed report due on or about September 14, 1979.

Three (3) sites were identified by the field party as follows:

25PT37: Lithic and bone scatter of unknown cultural affiliation; estimated area 1.5 acres (cultivated field). Location - , Section , T, , U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute Quadrangle (Columbus, Nebraska). The site is located on the foot contour adjacent to a probable former channel of Lost Creek; the present channel flows approximately one-half mile to the south of the site.

25PT38: Recent/historic scatter, early 20th century(?); estimated area 1.0 acre. Location - Section , Section , U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute Quadrangle (Columbus, Nebraska). The site is located on a low mound (Section of Lost Creek.

25PT39: Recent/historic scatter, early 20th century(?); estimated area 1.0 acre. Location - , Section , N, RE, U.S.G.S. 7.5 minute Quadrangle (Columbus, Nebraska). The site is located on approximately the foot contour about one-half mile north of the present channel of Lost Creek.

Construction of the project will have an impact on all three sites. Based on our preliminary evaluation of field data, neither of the recent/historic sites will meet National Register of Historic Places

eligibility criteria and further work will probably be unnecessary. Site 25PT37 represents one of the first prehistoric sites directly along Lost Creek and will, in all probability, require further work (subsurface tests) to fully evaluate.

I trust this information will be adequate. Please contact this office if further information is desired.

Sincerely,

(Sod) Earl R. Faik

Carl R. Falk Director

CRF:1s



The University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Department of Anthropology Division of Archeological Research Lincoln, Nebraska 68588 Telephone: (402) 472-2412

October 29, 1979

Ms. Becky Boyd Planning Division U.S. Department of the Army Omaha District, Corps of Engineers 6014 U.S. Post Office and Courthouse Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Dear Ms. Boyd:

Enclosed please find three (3) <u>draft</u> copies of a report entitled "Archeological Reconnaissance within the Lost Creek Flood Control Project Area, Platte County, Nebraska."

This report is submitted in partial fulfillment of the terms of Purchase Order No. DACW45-77-N-3145 dated September 11, 1977 and as modified (0002) April 10, 1979. We look forward to your review comments.

Sincerely

Carl R. Falk

Director

CRF:1s

encls (as stated)

xc: UNL Research Administrator



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY OMAHA DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS 6014 U.S. POST OFFICE AND COURTHOUSE OMAHA, NEBRASKA 68102

MROPD-E

11 December 1979

Mr. Carl R. Falk
Department of Anthropology
Division of Archeological Research
University of Nebraska at Lincoln
Lincoln, NE 68588

Dear Mr. Falk:

Inclosed is a revised copy of the "Archeological Reconnaissance Within the Lost Creek Flood Control Project Area, Platte County, Nebraska." All grammatical errors have been corrected in the draft copy.

Also inclosed, for your information, are the comments from Interagencies Archeological Services and from the Nebraska State Historical Society.

Please incorporate these comments and corrections into the final report. We look forward to your response on or before 21 December 1979.

Sincerely,

Inclosures As stated

Chief, Planning Division (

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MARVIN F. KIVETT DIRECTOR-SECRETARY



Phone (402) 471-3270

December 6, 1979

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1500 R STREET LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68508

John E. Velehradsky Chief Planning Division Omaha District 6014 U.S. Post Office & Courthouse Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Dear Mr. Velehradsky:

We have reviewed "Archeological Reconnaissance within the Lost Creek Flood Control Project Area, Platte County, Nebraska" by Carl R. Falk, et al. It is apparent that area has been thoroughly surveyed and the results presented in a professional manner. We would agree with the recommendations presented in the report. Sites 25 PT 38 and 25 PT 39 are of recent age and would not be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. If the flood control project will damage or destroy the prehistoric site, 25 PT 37, some archeological excavations and a determination of National Register eligibility would be necessary. If the project could be designed to avoid the site no further investigations would be needed and the project could proceed.

Sincerely,

Marvin F. Kivett

State Historic Preservation Officer

Richard E. Jensen

Preservation Archeologist

Gellacol Ffens

marin & Kniett

dbm



United States Department of the Interior HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

INTERAGENCY ARCHEOLOGICAL SERVICES—DENVER
P.O. BOX 25387, DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

IN REPLY REFER TO

1201-05 (W530)

DEC 0 7 1979

Mr. John E. Velehradsky Chief, Planning Division Department of the Army Omaha District, Corps of Engineers 6014 U.S. Post Office & Courthouse Omaha, Nebraska 68102

Dear Mr. Velehradsky:

In response to your request of November 9, 1979, we have completed our review of the draft report entitled, "Archeological Reconnaissance within the Lost Creek Flood Control Project Area, Platte County, Nebraska," prepared under your Purchase Order No. DACW45-77-N-3145. Enclosed please find copies of the individual reviews.

The reviewers concur that the draft is an excellent example of a contemporary archeological reconnaissance report. The few specific criticisms are offered for purposes of improving the quality of report presentation.

Thank you for allowing us to review this fine report; we trust that our comments prove useful.

Sincerely,

Jack R Rudy

Chief, Interagency

Archeological Services - Denver

Enclosures

DATE: November 27, 1979

memorandum

REVIEWER NO. 1

SUBJECT:

Review of: "Archeological Reconnaissance Within the Lost Creek Flood Control Project Area, Platte County, Nebraska" by University of Nebraska for the Omaha Corps. of Engineers

TO

Supervisory Archeologist (Hoffman)

The Lost Creek report is an excellent example of a contemporary archeological reconnaissance report. The manuscript fully documents all pertinent information necessary for management and professional considerations. I particularly liked the fact that Falk not only supported his recommendations for further work at site 25PT37 but also gave reasons why sites 25PT38 and 39 did not warrant further work. The report is well organized, well written, and well edited. I recommend that it be accepted by the Corps. without revision.



December 5, 1979

memorandum

REVIEWER NO. 2

Review of "Archeulogion Reconnaissance Within The Lost Creek Flood Conrrol Project Area, Platte, County, Nebraska"

To: Review Coordinator

Report is a review draft prepared for Omaha District, Corp. of Engineers under Purchase Order No. DACW45-77-M-3145. Purpose of the investigation is to perform a pedestrian survey of a specified project area, analyze collected data, evaluate significance of identified cultural resources, and

submit a detailed report of operations and results.

The subject report details the Phase II investigations of the project area. The previous, Phase I investigation, was a literature search that correctly predicted the need of Phase II pedestrian survey.

On the whole, this is an excellent report of a well executed pedestrian survey. There are a few grey areas, such as the Scope of Work requirement for evaluation of significance. While not specified in the Scope of Work, the investigators made their evaluation by National Register criteria. The Scope of Work also required analyses of all data collected by the survey. The field investigators did not collect observe cultural materials. However, materials are briefly described for purposes of evaluations and, in the case of site 25PT37, materials were pieced plotted in the field. In all fairness, however, I do not believe that collection and analyses of materials will substantcially alter the investigators' findings and recommendations.

In all other respects, this report is a model of how to perform and report a small scale pedestrian survey. It is both comprehensive and succinct. Other than the no-collection strategy, there are no ambiquities. Table 2 on page 16 is especially welcomed. Estimates of ground visibility within various faunal covers is virtually mandatory to evaluate survey effectiveness in the agricultural Midwest.

I find to little to adversely criticize in this report. The investigators performed a thorough surface survey that is creditably reported. Hence, the recommendations for future work are fully supported.



Buy U.S. Savings

memorandum

REVIEWER NO. 3

**BUBLECT: Review of Archeological Reconnaissance within the Lost Creek Flood Control Project Area, Platte County, Nebraska" by Carl Falk, et/al.

**DACW45-77-N-3145.

TO:

This is a fine report that more than meets the requirements of the SOW. I only have a few comments that might be considered.

Scope-of-Work Item 1.c. The Scope requires an appendix with inventory and description of all artifacts collected. This should be included in the body of the report and not as an appendix. Table 3 should be with Figure 2 (about page 17) because the items on Table 3 are located on the map Figure 2.

There is no analysis of data. However, there really wasn't that much collected to really analyze.

Table 2 on ground visibility: a map would have helped.

Page 21: Recomendations. 25PT37. The authors recommendations are justified and testing for National Register evaluations should be initiated. This is a fine report and the authors should be commended.



DATE: December 5, 1979

memorandum

REVIEWER NO. 4

Archeological Reconniassance Within the Lost Creek Flood Control Project
Area Platte County, Nebraska, by Carl R. Falk, Marlene K. Meier, Robert
E. Pepperi and Terry L. Steinacher, Department of Anthropology, University
To: of Nebraska

Supervisory Archeologist (Hoffman)

Scope of Work calls for:

- a. pedestrian survey
- b. data analysis
- c. detailed report

Comments:

This is a straight-forward report about a very small-scale survey. This reconnaissance investigation of the Lost Creek flood control project area in Nebraska carries out the provisions specified in the Scope of Work. A literature and documper search located and provided relevant information on the cultural resources of the Platte River Basin. No previously recorded archological sites were discovered within the project area. However, a walking survey (four persons, 30 man hours) found three sites. Two of the sites, 25PT38 and 25PT39, contain contemporary 20th century materials. These sites are not eligible for nomination to the National Register and no additional investigations are recommended. Site 25PT37, a prehistoric site, yielded flakes, cores, a ground stone tool, and animal bones from its surface. Since the site will be directly impacted by the flood control project additional investigation is recommended to determine its eligibility for nomination to the National Register. The excavation of a number of one-meter test units are required.

This report is acceptable as presented in this draft, however, there are several opportunities to improve its quality. These specific comments are given below.

Specific Comments:

Provide a detailed map of the project area with all three sites locations given.

p. 6 line 4 "Plate" should be "Platte"



Table 1 p. 11 and 12 identify the 1857 Plat map either in the text or in the bibliography.

Use of the term "historic/recent" in the Abstract and on pages 15, 17, and 19.

The authors might want to consider using instead:

"contemporary 20th century material"

This will preserve "historic" for remains that are more truly historic.

p. 21 last paragraph, line 4 add the phrase

"and determine eligibility for nomination to the National Register" after research potential.

RESPONSE TO THE REVIEW COMMENTS

Corps of Engineers, Omaha District

As requested, all editorial corrections and other suggestions noted on the draft report were taken into consideration in the final report.

Nebraska State Historical Society

No comment.

Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

- Reviewer No. 1:

No comment.

- Reviewer No. 2:

Collection Stragegy. Materials observed during the course of the survey were evaluated in the field and left in place. The authors felt that removal of these materials, in the absence of a clear research design, constituted an unnecessary adverse impact in the context of the present study. It was also felt that collection of specimens observed would contribute nothing toward realization of project goals. This view is consistent with that evidenced by Reviewer No. 2.

- Reviewer No. 3:

<u>Scope-of-Work Item 1C</u>. The authors and the Corps of Engineer reviewers agree with the comment pertaining to Table 3. An appropriate adjustment has been made.

Analysis of Data. Identification and description of observed materials sufficient to meet the needs of the scope-of-work were provided. The authors recognize the low-level nature of these "analyses" but nonetheless feel they meet relevant specifications. (Also, see response to Reviewer No. 2.)

Map Depicting Ground Visibility. The authors agree that such a map would be of interest and use. Project cost and time schedules precluded preparation of this graphic, however.

- Reviewer No. 4:

All editorial and other modifications suggested have been incorporated by the authors.

Comtemporary 20th Century Material. The authors agree as to the usefulness of the term suggested and have adopted its use where appropriate.

APPENDIX B



Field Records

(Sites 25PT37, 25PT38, and 25PT39)